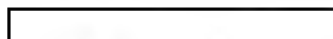


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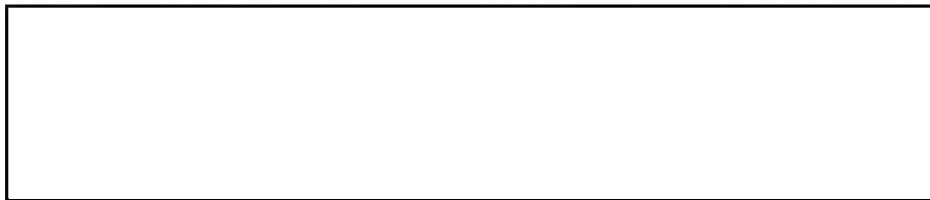
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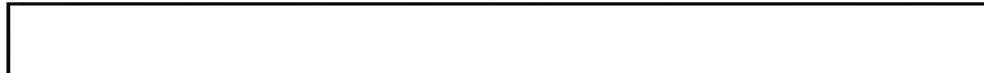
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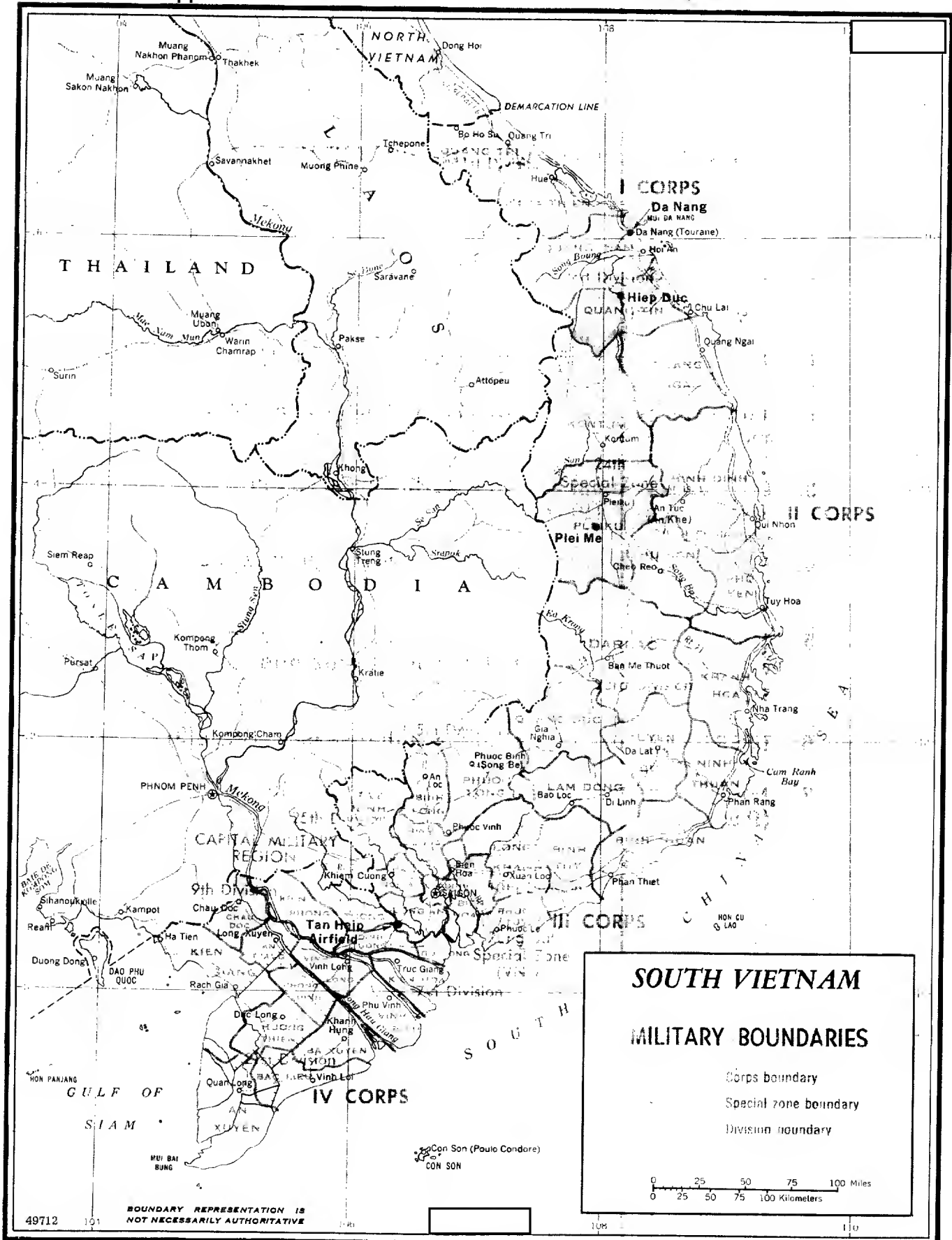


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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Military Situation In South Vietnam: After a break in the major battle fought during the past several days in western Pleiku Province, Communist forces early yesterday attacked a US battalion approximately 15 miles west of the Plei Me special forces camp. Initial reports listed three US killed, 15 wounded, and four missing; two enemy prisoners were the only Communist casualties noted. Prior to yesterday's activity, confirmed enemy losses totaled 870 killed, 17 captured, and 84 weapons seized. US casualties were 95 killed and 135 wounded.

In Quang Tin Province, a Viet Cong force of estimated battalion strength yesterday overran and sacked a district headquarters at Hiep Duc, 20 miles southwest of Da Nang. The installation was completely destroyed, and the garrison's 150 defenders suffered heavy casualties, Viet Cong losses are unknown.

Elsewhere, a government outpost in Chau Doc Province came under an enemy mortar attack early yesterday; casualties of 10 killed and 10 missing were reported before communications with the post were lost. Viet Cong forces also attacked a truck belonging to the US First Infantry Division yesterday 30 miles north of Saigon, killing three US troops and capturing one weapon. Enemy losses are again unknown.

A two-battalion Viet Cong force attacked a Vietnamese airfield at Tan Heip at 2:00 PM EST yesterday with a 200-round mortar barrage. Friendly forces lost 32 killed and 54 wounded; five US observation aircraft were destroyed. A reaction force of three South Vietnamese battalions was airlifted into the area and contact with the Viet Cong has been broken.

Developments In North Vietnam: The North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry on 16 November issued the second statement in less than two weeks condemning the US buildup in South Vietnam. While similar in tone and content to one made on 5 November the latest statement was apparently prompted by the recent announcement in Washington that additional US forces would be sent to Vietnam during the next several months.

The 16 November statement contained the customary charges against the US and also claimed that the additional troops added to the US and allied forces already committed to the war would total more than the former French Expeditionary Corps during the Indochina War.

A Party daily editorial which followed the foreign ministry statement dwelt at much greater length on the increasing economic, political and social strains which allegedly will be imposed on the US as a result of the growing American involvement in Vietnam. It is clear that Hanoi is pinning considerable hope on this as a factor to force concessions in US policy.

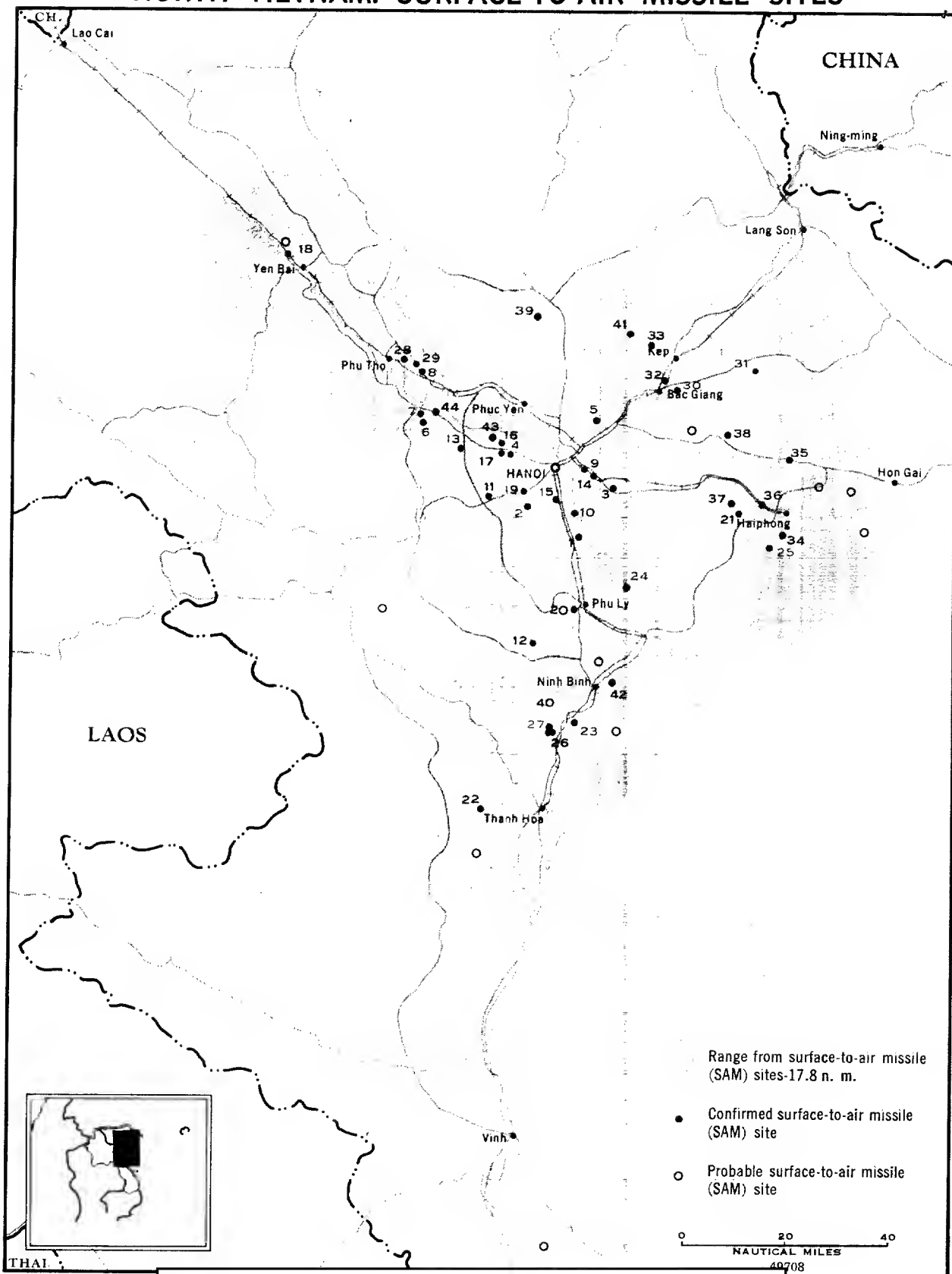
Hope that domestic opposition in the US will eventually bring about a modification of American policy was also reflected in a recent conversation between North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong and the French representative in Hanoi, De Buzon. According to De Buzon, the Premier seemed "obsessed" with the idea that American "lassitude" toward the war in Vietnam would eventually create conditions similar to those prevailing in France in 1954, and that this would force acceptance of Hanoi's four points. De Buzon speculated that while the North Vietnamese leadership was probably aware that a victory was no longer possible, they were still convinced that time was on their side and that they would continue to prosecute the war.

Dong admitted to the Frenchman that the bomb damage to North Vietnam had been extensive and, as a

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NORTH VIETNAM: SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SITES



result, Hanoi had been forced to cancel all current economic development plans and the forthcoming Five-Year Plan which was scheduled to begin next January.

Military Activity In North Vietnam: An A1H Skyraider appears to have been shot down by a surface-to-air missile on 17 November. Three other US jet aircraft were also lost over North Vietnam yesterday bringing the total to 160.

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(Total includes both those shot down by SAMs and those by ground fire.)

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Rhodesia: [Prime Minister Smith has moved to negate Governor Gibbs' opposition to his government by replacing him with Deputy Prime Minister Clifford Dupont.]

[Dupont will be "acting officer administering the government," and will be treated as the Queen's representative. Smith announced that he was stripping the "last trappings of office" from Gibbs, including the guards for his official residence. UK officials doubt, however, that army or police will consent to remove Gibbs forcibly from his residence. London apparently still hopes that Gibbs may serve as a rallying point for Rhodesians opposed to independence.]

[Smith is expected to call for formal establishment of a "regency" after the Rhodesian Parliament convenes on 25 November, thus legalizing the fiction of continued Rhodesian loyalty to the Queen.]

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Communist China: [Peking is apparently still several years away from achieving widespread deployment of surface-to-air missiles (SAMs).]

[Although China has for sometime been confronted by increasing air defense requirements, particularly in the south where Peking appears to fear attack by US aircraft, there are only about 16 tactical SAM sites at present in all of China. It is likely that the number of operational units is substantially less. The only firmly identified operational site in South China which is possibly operational is at Ningming.]

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[The Soviets have apparently not aided the Chinese since they provided a small amount of SAM equipment prior to their withdrawal five years ago. However, work has been going forward on the development of an independent SAM capability.]

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NOTES

Guinea: A high Guinean official has publicly charged that the recent plot against the Touré regime was initiated by Ivory Coast and supported by France. President Touré has called for creation of a "Revolutionary Tribunal" to try those implicated, who now include the commanding officer of the large military camp near Conakry. Ivory Coast President Houphouët-Boigny plans to make a vigorous public denial of Conakry's charges. The French Foreign Ministry is awaiting more specific information before reacting.

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Kuwait: The Amir of Kuwait has suffered a relapse following his heart attack last month and may step down from active rule. The Crown Prince is expected to give up the prime minister's post to become acting Amir. The royal family is seeking a compromise candidate for prime minister in an effort to avert a power struggle which might benefit Arab nationalist elements.

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The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)

The Assistant Secretary of Defense

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